

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 29TH, 2013 PUBLIC MEETING OF THE ARIZONA NATURAL RESOURCES REVIEW COUNCIL

1. Call to Order- Welcome and Introductions

Chairman Larry Voyles called the meeting to order and welcomed the Council to the third meeting of the Natural Resource Review Council. Council members in attendance included:

AZ Department of Transportation (ADOT) – John Halikowski
AZ State Land Department (ASLD) – Vanessa Hickman
AZ Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) – Henry Darwin
AZ Department of Water Resources (ADWR) – Sandy Fabritz-Whitney
AZ State Forester (ASF)– Mr. Jerry Payne for Director Scott Hunt;
AZ Geological Survey (AGS)– Ms. Kim Patten for Director Lee Allison
AZ State Parks (ASP)– Mr. Jay Ream for Director Bryan Martin
AZ Department of Agriculture (ADA)– Don Butler

Staff Present in Support of the Council:

Governor's Office- Kevin Kinsall and Jill Hall

AGFD– Bob Broscheid, Mary Broniarczyk

ASLD- Kim Morey

2. Review Agenda

No requests for changes to the agenda were identified by the Council.

3. Presentation by AZ State Land Department on the 5-Year Disposition Plan

Commissioner Vanessa Hickman presented an overview of the State Land Department's 5-year Disposition Plan that included the mission and history of ASLD, trust beneficiaries and the enabling act and constitutional restrictions. The 5-year disposition plan was completed in 2011 to provide a high-level inventory of parcels for disposition, reclassification, master planning, and rezoning within near, mid or long term timeframes. The agency is currently in the process of updating and reviewing the 2011 plan. The Council appreciated the presentation and requested that it be placed on the Council's webpage.

4. Council Review and Comment on Draft Subcommittee Work Plans

a. Geographic Information System Subcommittee (SC)

Kim Patten (AGS) reviewed the purpose and objectives of the SC in the Draft Work Plan. She indicated that the SC is making good progress on the planning and research portions. A survey was sent to the agencies for additional information. The SC is also compiling research from other state, and is on schedule to provide a report in the next few months.

b. Planning Subcommittee

Director Fabritz-Whitney reviewed the purpose and objectives of the SC contained in the Draft Work Plan. The SC purpose is to coordinate state efforts on proposed federal actions that have an impact on the State's authorities and trust responsibilities. She explained the slight overlap with the Clearinghouse SC efforts, and that the deliverables will be phased in to accommodate its overlap. In the short term, the SC is requesting that the agencies each send the names of a primary and secondary point-of-contact in order to better facilitate coordination of proposed federal projects. The SC will also analyze and recommend approaches to better involve local governments in this process.

c. Clearinghouse Development Subcommittee

Bob Broscheid (Chair) reviewed the purpose and objectives of the SC contained in the Draft work plan. The SC is conducting further benchmarking with the states of Florida, Nevada and Arkansas, and is analyzing the mechanisms to ensure federal cooperation and compliance with the Clearinghouse once established. The SC should have their recommendations completed by the June 25th meeting for Council review. Within those recommendations, the SC will recommend approaches to better involve local governments in this Clearinghouse process.

d. Mitigation and Conservation Banking Subcommittee

Ms. Kim Morey (Chair) presented the Draft work plan for discussion. Several members indicated concerns for new legislation establishing additional mitigation requirements. The work plan will focus on the establishment of a mitigation banking program to meet the requirements for banks and mitigation under existing statutes, including Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act. Any mitigation beyond existing statutory and regulatory requirements provided in a mitigation or conservation bank would be an opportunity for a proponent to provide for voluntary mitigation or conservation for impacts. The SC will focus on the objective of establishing a statewide mitigation banking program under existing federal mitigation requirements and provide the detail for such a program.

5. Discuss Current Federal Planning Efforts of Interest

Bob Broscheid provided general updates to the Council on some significant federal projects. These updates included the US Dept. of Agriculture's Request for Refund from the States, the US Forest Service comment period on the proposed Forest Planning Rule Directives, and the US Forest Service's release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Four-Forest Restoration Initiative.

6. Development of an NRRC Outreach Strategy

Bob Broscheid indicated that several external entities are requesting presentations on the purpose and objectives of the Council, and there are numerous others that should be coordinated with in the near future. Bob is creating a presentation that can be used by any agency to answer these general questions, and would like Council review on the presentation and which groups we should be delivering the message to.

7. Call to the Public

Janice Miano representing the AZ Heritage Alliance spoke on behalf of local and state parks. She mentioned the cover of the AZ Republic article on the need for more parks, and the re-instatement of state parks grant program. She requested the opportunity to for her group to present at future meeting.

Sandy Bahr representing the Grand Canyon Chapter of the Sierra Club spoke to her desire that the Council should reach out farther than the Governor's website.

Ian Dowdy representing the AZ Wilderness Coalition spoke to the legislation introduced by Congressman Grijalva, titled the Sonoran Desert Heritage Act. Mr. Dowdy offered to provide additional information to the Council.

8. Wrap-Up and Review Action Items

The following action items and future agenda items were identified from the April 29, 2013 meeting:

1. The ASLD's 5-year Disposition Plan will be posted to the NRRC website **(Bob B.)**.
2. Member agencies will provide their Primary and Secondary Points-of-Contact **to Bob B. (AGFD)** as soon as possible for coordinating agency review and comment on future federal planning efforts. Once completed, this list will be sent to the member agencies for future reference.
3. Member agencies will provide responses to the Mitigation and Conservation Banking Subcommittee questionnaire **to Kim Morey (ASLD) and Tim Wade (AGFD) by May 13th**.
4. Subcommittee Chairs will identify opportunities for local government involvement and modify Draft Work Plans as necessary **(Subcommittee Chairs)**. Following completion of #4 above, Work Plans will be posted on the internet for public review and comment. **(Bob B. will post on internet site and compile comments for presenting at future Council meeting)**.
5. When completed, the Draft Outreach presentation and FAQs will be shared with the Council for review and comment. **(Bob B.)**
6. The Council will be informed of all outreach activities associated with the Council. **(Bob B.)**
7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM: Council members will be prepared to discuss the possible formation of a Subcommittee to identify interested groups and stakeholders for outreach activities of the Council, and will be prepared to identify possible stakeholder groups for targeted outreach efforts.

9. Adjourn

The Council adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:30pm.

Future Council meeting dates:

June 3, 2013

Governor's Executive Tower
2nd Floor Conference Room
1700 West Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

June 25th, 2013

Governor's Executive Tower
2nd Floor Conference Room
1700 West Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007